15 deputies face layoffs in partisan budget battle

By Suzie Rolline Singer staff writer

About 15 Oakland County Sheriff's patrol officers will be laid off by New Year's Day as a result of the county's adopted 1983 budget.

After two hours of discussion, which included testimony from more than 40 people, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted 17-7 to adopt the \$114 million budget.

More than 500 persons attended the meeting.

VOTING AGAINST the budget were ieven Democratic commissioners: Dennis Aaron of Oak Park, James Doron of Madison Heights (whose district insudes part of Troy). Bettle Troy, Be

'I have stopped the cycle and scooter patrols in subdivisions . . . If you eliminate the deputies, you're inviting an open season on crime."

- Sheriff Johannes Spreen

"FOR YEARS, people in the south end of the county have had their own police forces and have argued against the existence of a police force (for the north end) pald for by their taxes," Nowak said.

"Police protection in these areas (townships without their own forces) can still be available, but they (townships) will have to pay for it."

The total spending plan for 1985 is only 0.5 percent larger than the 1982 \$110 million budget. Across the county, 95 job slots were eliminated for 1933. During 1982, 41 persons were laid off. The latest rounds of cuts will bring the total for the year to \$9 persons laid off. Because many of the jobs slots are now vacant, actual layoffs will be fewer.

the board, explaining he would cut pro-grams and practices previously criti-cized by the commissioners if they would save his deputies. "I have slopped the cycle and scooter patrols in subdivisions. There will be no more unauthorized overtime or new programs not approved by the board of commissioners," said Spreen, adding: "If you eliminate the deputies, you're inviting an open season on crime."

BEFORE VOTING on the budget, DEFUILE VOTING on the budget, Democratic commissioners proposed 14 amendments to cut other areas rather than the sheriff's department, but only two amendments were adopted.

Commissioners ocience so, or anceted to the county executive's mounted division and \$127,000 from the prosecutor's anti-organized crime atrike
force, eliminating the positions of three
investigators and one secretary.

Other cuts included:

A senior trial lawyer from the

Twelve persons from the county
executive's department.
 25 previously authorized but currently vacant positions in the drain commissioner's office.

THE 1983 budget keeps the property tax rate of 4.63 mills unchanged.

'There is also a misconception that the deletion of 20 roving patrol officers will devastate law enforcement . . . The actual reduction represents less than 1.5 percent of the total patrol capability."

— Commissioner John Cslandro

The property tax levy continues to be the county's biggest source of money. It raises 58 percent — \$66.2 million.

A \$4.4 million surplus was carried forward from prior years and added to the 1983 budget.





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Walter Moore of Ponitae, Lawrence Perrick of Southfield and flubert Price of Fondae. Sherlff Johannes Spreen is a Democrat. The board majority is Republican, as are County Executive Daniel T Murphy and Presecutor L. Brooks Patterson. The finance committee recommendation called for eliminating 27 short iff's deputies position. But due to undon "bumping" and outside contracts with townships, and prize to the position will be fore iff's deputies position. But due to undon "bumping" and outside contracts with townships, and prize to the position of the

White Michigan lingers in economic crisis and unemployment creeps higher, caseloads in private social service agencies are down, reports a Michigan State University professor.

It's a very unique phenomenon, said John Herrick, a professor in MSU's School of Social Work. The very time you'd expect distressed people to be knocking down the doors of these private agencies, they're not doing it. Herrick, who is researching the impact of Reagonomics on the private agencies they are not doing it. Generally the service as the private agencies of the private agencies of the service as the private agencies of the service and the private agencies of the private agencies of the private and the private and the private and the private and the private agencies of the private and the pr

ployed and in financia: carrier first time.

These "new poor," Herrick points out, may not be aware private agencies exist, or they may not have enough money to pay for indimal aid, or they may be reluctant to seek out services because of the stigma attached to ask-

because of the stigma attached to ask-ing for help.

"IN OUR society, there's always been a notion that people who ask for help are somebow not 'normal,' said Herrick. The assumption is that if you accept welfare assistance, it's your

own fault and it's the easy way out."
Herrick said that because of the strength of the American work ethic and the welfare stigma, millions of people who need aid to survive are not getting it.

This is particularly true of the aged," he said. "They feel terribly gulity about not being able to provide for themselves. They won't even accept food stamps because they feel it's a handout, so they suffer instead."
Herrick said social service agencies should make certain that people in their community know what services the agencies provide, and that everyone are a public service obligation to already services has been self-generated — people always came to them. But now it's absolutely imperative they open their doors to the community and let veryone know what they're all about."

"People have to press for changes

about."
"People have to press for changes again now and let the government know they're desperate for relief from poverty and stress."



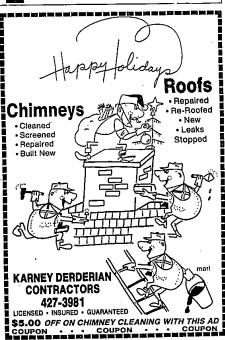


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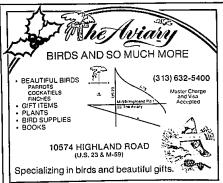
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